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August 22, 1990

TO: File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *dag*

RE: Site Visit of Pyramid Mining Co.'s Aroc #1 Mine, S/047/032, Uintah County, Utah

On August 16, 1990, myself and Holland Shepherd of DOGM and Dave Plume of the BLM visited the Aroc #1 Mine site currently operated by Pyramid Mining Co.. The site had not been visited by DOGM personnel since 1988.

The mine site is immediately adjacent to the Uintah County Asphalt Pit, M/047/022, and is part of the same deposit and mine claim. The land covering the County Pit and the Aroc area is privately owned by the same party. Mr. Larry Allred is operating the mine for Pyramid and arrived at the site shortly after our arrival.

The mine consists of a pit area adjacent to the County pit, a milling/mixing area, gravel piles, overburden material, and roads. The disturbed area is approximately 3+ acres at this time. Photographs were taken to document the current status of the mine and portions of this mine may be seen in some photos of the County operation.

Larry gave us a brief tour and description of the mine. A large amount of overburden material is piled on part of the ore body and out towards the stream channel to the southwest. This overburden material contains enough asphalt to create a solid and compact surface, but not enough to be considered ore material. This material is black in color and contains a fair amount of oil. Larry felt that the regulations required him to keep the overburden material for use as topsoil material even though it was of poor quality. He claimed that the material was placed there by the county when the entire pit area was being worked by them. Larry proposed removing the overburden material and possibly selling it, rather than keeping it for reclamation. After examining the material we agreed that it was unsuitable for plant growth and removing it would be a better idea. We expressed our concern that the material should not be pushed any further into the stream channel.

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This mine contains the drainage for the County pit as well as the Aroc portion of the pit. Ultimate reclamation of the drainage may need to be negotiated between the two mine operators sometime in the future. Another point to be negotiated may be the use of the gravel/soil material stockpiled by the County operation in reclamation of the Aroc site. This material is suitable as soil material and has been used by the County for that purpose. Since the Aroc site has very little topsoil material and the property is owned by the same entity this option may be feasible. The gravel/soil material was originally collected by the county to use in their asphalt operation. The land owners claimed that the gravel was not part of the asphalt deposit and therefore not the rightful property of the county under their mining lease agreement.

We informed Larry that we would send him a copy of our rules and a letter documenting our visit and granting Pyramid Mining a variance to remove the overburden material instead of using it as soil. The letter is to be copied to the company address in Kentucky also.

jb
cc: Wayne Hedberg
Holland Shepherd
MNS047032.1/3-4